



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2024

### ISSUE NO.17

## EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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

### Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome back to our second newsletter of 2024. Last week I spoke about the importance of a positive mindset as we pursue our goals - and overcome any challenges - of the year ahead. When we set out to attain a big goal or achieve something substantial, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the task that is ahead. However, it's important to remember that you don't need to see the top of the mountain, you just need to take the next step. As boxing champion Mohammed Ali famously reminded us "It took me 19 years to become an overnight success." When it comes to striving for greatness, the key is to embrace the long-term, bigger picture, and to know there will be challenges. However, by adopting the right attitude and putting in the work, greatness will come. This is something that I have seen in abundance across the school, as I have visited classrooms and spoken with parents this week. Together we continue to build something special at Warren Farm and have started 2024 as we finished 2023 - demonstrating **Excellence in Everything** we do.

On Tuesday and Thursday this week, our year 5 and 6 children attended inter school dodgeball and basketball competitions wearing one of our brand new sports kits with pride as they battled it out with other schools. While they may not have returned with the results that they had hoped for, win, lose or draw competitive sport offers a fantastic opportunity to learn valuable character attributes. Excellence is not perfection. It is about giving your best with the tools you have. It is about stretching your boundaries, pushing your limits, and giving your very best. Setting a standard of excellence in your everyday habits, routines and actions is how you achieve success.

Over the coming weeks I will be sharing further developments that will continue to transform Warren Farm, demonstrating our commitment to **Excellence in Everything** and providing our children with excellent teaching, excellent opportunities and excellent resources to ensure that they achieve greatness that lasts a lifetime.

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

MOST PEOPLE OVERESTIMATE WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE IN A YEAR AND UNDERESTIMATE WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE IN TEN YEARS

### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tues 23rd January	1/2YG School trip to Warwick Castle
Fri 2nd February	Dental checks Nursery to Year 6
Tues 6th February	1CO School trip to Warwick castle
Tue/Wed 6/7th February	Parents Evening
Thur 8th February	2HM School trip to Warwick Castle
Thur 8th February	Valentines Disco
Thurs 8th February	Finish for Half Term
Fri 9th February	School Closed Training Day





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### EARLY YEARS



We've had a very busy week down in Early Years as we have welcomed some new starters into our Nursery! They have settled beautifully, and we are so proud of how the rest of Nursery have helped their new classmates to settle into their new environment. In Reception this week, we have been exploring different types of weather! We have been learning about the sounds that weather makes and the types of clothes we need for the different types of weather. Please remember to send a P.E kit into school for gymnastics this term - children will not be able to take part in P.E and use the apparatus without the appropriate kit due to health and safety. Children must have a yellow top, black short/leggings/jogging bottoms, and black P.E pumps/trainers.

### KEY STAGE 1

This week in our PE lessons the children in KS1 have been enjoying exploring gymnastic equipment and practising their balancing and landing positions. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE uniform consisting of a yellow top, black shorts/trousers and black trainers or pumps. It is vital that you remove any piercings and jewellery on Wednesday's for the safety of your child. Next Tuesday (23rd) 1/2YG are going on their trip to Warwick Castle. Please make sure your child is wearing their school uniform and is also wrapped up warm.



### ATTENDANCE

We are overtly aware that there are a variety of different illnesses currently doing the rounds and understand that children may need to be off school in order to get better. Please ensure that you call the school to inform of us of this before the start of the school day. If your child seems unwell in the morning but makes a recovery, we are always happy for children to come in at lunch time. Every lesson in school really does count!

Once again, I would like to signpost you to this NHS document [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) If you are ever unsure if your child should or should not be in school, this document is comprehensive. Please note that 'nits/head lice' is not a reason for your child to miss school.

On Thursday 25th January, we are holding a working-party for parents to discuss any issues around attendance. If you would like to attend, please speak to Mr Davis.

NAH	92.1%
RMH	84.8%
RLM	68.2%
1CO	95.3%
1/2YG	91.6%
2HM	89.3%
3AB	91%
3/4SK	94.3%
4DN	96.6%
5AG	91.7%
5/6NW	95.3%
6BP	96.6%

### TRAINING DAY

**SCHOOL IS CLOSED  
ON FRIDAY 9TH  
FEBRUARY FOR  
STAFF TRAINING**

### COLD WEATHER



Please ensure that children attend school with the appropriate outdoor clothing for playtime during winter months including: coats, hats and gloves. Daily risk assessments take place and playtimes will be outside unless it is not safe to do so.





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### SAFEGUARDING

This week saw a police incident take place near to the school. As a school we work closely with the police and other emergency services to identify any risk there may be to the school. The school has a lockdown procedure which can be deployed to ensure that the school site is safe and secure. This will only be done in extreme circumstances. Site safety is very important and regular checks are done by all staff to ensure that the school is a safe place for the children. All doors are locked and can only be accessed by school staff. When visitors come to the building they have to sign in and then are given a lanyard stating their name and reason for visit. All visitors are given a safeguarding leaflet as they enter so that they are clear about our policies and procedures in school.

### SEND

#### SEND Therapists

As part of the local offer, Birmingham offer parents and schools support from SEND Therapists. The service works with children who may have Occupational Therapy needs around self-care, motor skills or sensory sensitivity and, or Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties. They can provide settings with support and advice to enable them to support children with SEND. They also support with signposting to services and resources available. For more information on the help and support the service offer please visit the local offer website or contact school to arrange a meeting with Miss Gosling. [Local offer link](#)

### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Hallie Maddix
RMH	Ibrahim Mohammad
RLM	Sienna Collins
1CO	Tilly-Rose Coleman
1/2YG	Tosin Benson
2HM	Ilyes Haddouche
3AB	Kyrah Carter
3/4SK	Diahri Bromfield
4DN	Ali Sharif
5AG	Alicia Humphreys
5/6NW	Lola Edwards
6BP	Autumn Langford Hodgson

### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

We've had a great week, this week with lots of exciting activities. In PE, with Miss Lewis, we have started to expand on what we learnt last week in Gymnastics and have used the gymnastic apparatus to practice our balances, rolls and movements. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit, including a change of shoes. In Maths we are focussing on multiplication and division. It is important that your child is practising their times tables at home. This can be done by encouraging Times Table Rock Stars practice. This is a reminder that Year 4 children will have a times table test at the end of Year 4 which is identical to Soundcheck on TTR.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2



We've had a week full of sporting events across the school this week and children in Year 5 and 6 have taken part in both basketball and dodgeball tournaments. During PE, they have been developing their gymnastics skills and using a variety of equipment to build their strength and balance. During our Young Leaders programme, Year 5 have been focussing on enhancing their teamwork and leadership skills. The coaches have been really impressed with the progress made so far! This programme will run all the way through the year and we can't wait to see the development that takes place.

Year 6 SATs boosters will start next week, after school on Monday (Reading) and Wednesday (Maths). Please encourage your children to attend all sessions to support with their SATs.





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**“THIS MORNING,  
HE HAD A RUNNY  
NOSE... BUT LOOK  
AT HIM NOW!”**



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



**HM Government**

Head to the NHS website to find out more.



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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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

## for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

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### NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

### RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

### TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

### STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

### DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

### IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

### ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

### REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

### THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

### SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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Good Provider