



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

### ISSUE NO.20

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



**Ofsted**  
Good Provider



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

## Message from Mr Taylor

I can't quite believe that we are at the halfway point of this academic year. We have achieved so much already. However, there is still much more to do - this year, in the short term and over the longer term as we navigate our journey of *Excellence in Everything*. On Friday this week, staff were joined by Floyd Woodrow MBE DCM and CEO of *Compass for Life* which will form an integral element of our character curriculum moving forward. At *Compass for Life*, their mission is simple – to help staff, children and parents on a lifelong journey of learning and development to find their personal and professional purpose and become the best version of themselves. From CEOs, civil servants and international sporting champions to children and future leaders, each of us is on our own journey. As that journey progresses the *Compass for Life* programme is here to equip staff, children and parents with the tools, skills and support to challenge you to take the next step - in the case of Warren Farm, achieve *Excellence in Everything*.



Floyds message is clear and aligns with the vision of Warren Farm “What I’m doing is giving children a reason to be at school. I’m helping them see the benefits of it, but I’m also giving them a better understanding of who they are as people, what their strengths are, and how to better understand others too. I’m getting them to think about their personal aspirations, but also their responsibilities to the wider community. The point about Compass For Life is it allows children to develop that incredibly basic core question: why are you at school?”

Make it a great half term

SAIL AWAY FROM THE SAFE HARBOUR.  
CATCH THE TRADE WINDS IN YOUR SAILS.  
EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER

Mr Taylor



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## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 19th February	Return to School
Thurs 22nd February	Height and Weight Reception and Year 6
Mon 26th February	Year 1 Phonic Parents Workshop
Mon 26th February	Animal Man Visit EYFS
Tue 27th February	EYFS Parents Phonics Workshop
Thurs 7th March	World Book Day
Fri 15th March	Red Nose Day
Wed 20th March	Easter Bonnet parade EYFS and KS1



@warren\_farm\_pri

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### EARLY YEARS



This week, Early Years have enjoyed lots of Valentine's Day related activities - we have collaged hearts, talked about who is special to us and what love looks like, as well as danced our hearts out at the Valentine's Disco! In reception, we also read the story Mr Wolf's Pancakes and decorated our own pancakes to take home - we hope you enjoyed them! The children have worked so hard over the past few weeks, so please remember it's important to take time to enjoy the half term break with your families. We always enjoy when the children share their learning and experiences with the class, so please feel free to upload pictures of your half term adventures onto your class dojo portfolios!

### KEY STAGE 1

1CO had an amazing day at Warwick castle this Tuesday. Children got lost in history and had to find their way out in the maze. The children were lucky enough to watch a 'birds of prey' show where the birds quite literally flew over their heads! As the children explored the castle grounds they took on the role of an army trying to invade. The children in 1CO showed 'excellence in everything' and were a credit to Warren Farm. Thank you to everyone who attended parents evening. It was great to catch up about your child's progress and share all their wonderful work. Over the half term please continue to read regularly and rest up ready for another exciting half term.



### ATTENDANCE

As a collective this half term, our school attendance has been a disappointing 92%. This is a huge 4% off our school target of 96%.

We understand that children need to be off school on occasion when they are genuinely ill and would like to thank parents for ringing and informing us of these occasional illnesses.

Unfortunately, we do see attendance patterns with children who are persistently absent with illness, which is why we request medical evidence once children's attendance drops below 90%. Although we would like to take illness absences at face value, when a child is ill most Fridays, for example, we need to start to consider how genuine this is.

Again, to our many children (and parents) who are in school, on time, every day. Thank you! It does not go unnoticed.

NAH	93.7%
RMH	84.7%
RLM	81.1%
1CO	94.3%
1/2YG	90.4%
2HM	88.3%
3AB	95%
3/4SK	91.7%
4DN	94.3%
5AG	91.3%
5/6NW	96%
6BP	94.5%

### VALENTINES DISCO 'WEAR IT RED'

Thank you for all your donations for the Midlands Air Ambulance. The work that they do is invaluable and the money raised will help this to continue. It was lovely to see all the children wearing their red clothes and accessories with pride. Each class had the opportunity to have a dance at the disco that was set up in the hall and have some refreshments. They thoroughly enjoyed displaying their dance moves to their friends and also singing along with their favourite songs.



**Midlands  
Air Ambulance  
Charity®**





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### SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is peer on peer abuse. There are 4 key definitions for peer on peer abuse, it can be domestic - which means they may experience abuse within their intimate relationships, child sexual exploitation which means children that are sexually abused by perpetrators that they may know, serious youth violence which may involve a weapon and harmful sexual behaviour - these can be behaviours that are displayed by young people that are out of the ordinary. The signs of peer on peer abuse can include the imbalance of power within a relationship, sexual behaviour that is inappropriate and isolating themselves from family and friends. The impact on peer on peer abuse can be that in later life they are left with emotional trauma both physically and mentally.

### SEND

#### Neurodevelopmental Pathway Team.

The NDP team assesses children and young people for neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The NDP team is a multidisciplinary (MDT) professional service, that includes speech and language therapists, consultant community paediatricians, specialist nurses, occupational therapists and psychologists. Referrals to this service must be made by a professional from health, social care or educational. For more information please visit the [Birmingham Community Health Website](http://www.birminghamcommunityhealth.nhs.uk).

### BADMINTON FESTIVAL

The Spark Active 'Racket Festival' for Years 3,4, 5 and 6 was a real 'hit' on Thursday this week.



### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

Year 3 and 4 have had an amazing half term! Our last week has consisted of lots of exciting things including a badminton festival, valentine's disco and after school clubs. Our dodgeball after school club has come to an end however we are excited for our netball club to start the first week back! This half term we have explored water colour paints in Art, the Bronze and Iron Age in History and rapping in Music. Please see our class performances of 'Stop bullying'!



3AB



3/4SK



4DN

### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

I would like to thank all of the parents that attended parent's evening this week - your cooperation and support is vital for the successes of our children. I would also like to congratulate the Year 6 children on their mental resilience as they completed practise SATS papers. The purpose of this is to inform the teachers about how to best support the children's individual needs moving forward. Year 5 had another excellent week in their MPCT Young Leaders session which focussed on fitness! The children were really put through their paces, but were incredibly resilient, physically. I wish you all a fantastic half term and look forward to welcoming all the children back for Spring 2.





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

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

(Although this lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

UNDER 18

#### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

#### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

#### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



#### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature; young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

#### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

### 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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